

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

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Secretary Humphrey today announced the appointment by the President of members of the Annual Assay Commission which will meet at the United States Mint in Philadelphia at 10 a.m., Wednesday, February 11, for the traditional ceremony of the "trial of the coins." Members of the Commission are:

Otto B. Heaton, Columbus, Ohio
Edmund A. Rice, Prospect Plains, New Jersey
J. Reece White, Millsboro, Delaware
George L. Stark, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Loyd B. Gettys, David City, Nebraska
Mrs. Walter Annenberg, Wynnewood, Pennsylvania
Albert A. Shuger, Baltimore, Maryland
Frank Elmendorf, Cleveland, Ohio
Philip T. Sharples, Haverford, Pennsylvania
Mrs. Charles A. Dean, Jr., Grosse Pointe, Michigan
Peter Hofstra, Paterson, New Jersey
Mrs. William Preston Few, Durham, North Carolina
Mrs. Robert O. Bonnell, Baltimore, Maryland
A. V. Astin, Washington, D. C.
John Verduin, Paterson, New Jersey
Joseph M. Gazzam, Jr., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The following are ex-Officio members of the Commission:

Judge William H. Kirkpatrick, United States District
Court, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Preston Delano, Comptroller of the Currency,
Washington, D. C.
Joseph S. Buford, Chief Assayer, United States
Assay Office, New York City

The Commission, which will be convened by Nellie Tayloe Ross, Director of the Mint, is one of the oldest institutions in the Government. Its origin dates back to 1791 when Alexander Hamilton, first Secretary of the Treasury, presented to the Congress the result of his "inquiries and reflections" relative to the establishment of a Mint. He suggested a system of sampling and testing coins.

At all United States Mints, one silver coin out of every 10,000 delivered from the coining room must, under the law, be taken out and deposited in a strongbox called the "pyx", similar to a receptacle for new English coins once kept in the Chapel of the Pyx in Westminster Abbey, London.

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For the 1953 ceremony, 42,449 silver coins have been assembled at Philadelphia in the manner prescribed by law, taken from the Mints' silver coinage production last year of over 400 million pieces. The Assay Commission will observe a variety of tests to determine that the coins meet all legal requirements.

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